

and Neyyattinkara were also to be completed during the year. But these results have not yet been attained although the Peishkar and his subordinates were unremitting in their efforts to push on with the work. As already observed there was some unavoidable delay in commencing the work under the new scheme. But there are also other causes for the delay which are now engaging the attention of Government. There is still a tendency in the Department to relapse into the old methods of working, avoiding working in the field and doing all work from head offices by carrying on correspondence with the subordinates. This is against the spirit of the new scheme. I hope to be able to inspect the work in the field more largely than I have done hitherto in view to ensure strict adherence to the instructions laid down in the scheme. It is also in contemplation to frame a revised forecast in the light of the experience gained during the past year. The Settlement Peishkar is now engaged in this work and every endeavour will be made to introduce such modifications as may be necessary to secure the early completion of Settlement work under the scheme.

Very good progress was made in the printing of the Settlement Registers during the year. The registers for Trivandrum, Chirayinkil and Nedumangad taluks had been printed and those of Kartigapalli put on hand when the year closed. This is also due to the special efforts put forth in this direction under the new scheme and the Trivandrum taluk which was settled 17 years ago is now furnished with printed registers ready for reference.

In connection with the work of viruthi settlement under the new scheme the question of assigning lands for Munnila service and for collection of vital statistics came up for consideration. As the system was found to be a source of hardship to the service inam holders and much inconvenience to Government it was abolished during the year and orders issued for the employment of a stipendiary staff, the lands being enfranchised on full pattom.

5. **Legislation.**—During the last year four Regulations were passed.

I. To make provision for the care of the person and estates of Lunatics.
II. To amend Regulations I of 1040 and II of 1052 relating to Breaches of Contract.

III. To prevent loss to Government by the default or misconduct of Public Accountants.

IV. To consolidate and amend the Law relating to Stamps.

Bills to consolidate and amend the law relating to Revenue Officers and the Land Revenue, and to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure were introduced during the year, and leave was granted to introduce Bills to amend the law relating to Civil Courts and the High Court Regulations.

6. **Police.**—The strength of the Police was 1,728 men. The proportion of policemen to area and population was 1 to 5.004 square miles and 1 to 2,083 of the population respectively. The number of cognizable cases registered during the year was 4,494, of which 1,761 were referred as false. Of the 2,663 cases charged 2,117 ended in conviction. It is satisfactory to note that the percentage of property recovered, 57.3, shows an increase over that of the previous year, 48.7.

During the year there was some friction between the Nayar and the Ealava communities which created a good deal of ill-feeling and led to some breaches of the peace, though not of a serious nature. This ill-feeling has happily subsided owing to the influence of the better disposed among the two classes.

7. Judicial Department.—Dewan Bahadur C. Vencobachariar having retired from the office of Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyer B. A., M. L., whose services were lent to the State by the Madras Government, was appointed to the office.

Criminal Justice.—The number of Civil and Criminal Courts remained the same as in the year preceding viz. 28 and 66 respectively. The District Magistrate's Court at Alleppey was abolished and its territorial limits added to the Quilon Magisterial District.

The number of offences reported and returned as true was 19,572 and 17,434, showing a decrease of 4,187 and 912 respectively as compared with the figures for the previous year. The decline was mainly in offences under special and local laws. 1,530 appeals were preferred to the District Magistrates. 126 cases affecting 323 persons were tried and disposed of by the Sessions Courts.

Civil Justice.—The volume of original litigation remained almost the same. the institutions aggregating 40,313 against 40,589 in the year preceding. The disposals of the Munsiffs amounted to 40,241 and of the District Courts to 478 suits. The number of appeal cases fell from 3,077 to 2,945.

The arrears at the close of the year are reported to have risen in all the grades of Civil Courts; original suits, Munsiffs' Courts from 9,197 to 9,628 and District Courts, 416 to 519 and appeals, District Courts from 1,216 to 1,475 and High Court, 318 to 485. It has thus become highly necessary to concert measures to relieve the congestion of arrears noticeable in the Civil Courts in the interests alike of the litigant public and the Courts themselves. The Bill recently introduced to amend the Civil Courts Regulation when brought into operation will it is expected conduce to better results being shown as regards arrears in the Civil Courts.

8. Jails.—The number of admissions to the Central Prison, Trivandrum was 616, of whom 523 were convicts. Of the 23 juvenile prisoners admitted during the year 3 were formerly pupils of the Reformatory. The health of the prisoners was very satisfactory, the number of deaths being only 9 or 1.82 per cent, the lowest on record for the last 12 years. All executions are now conducted within the premises of the Central Prison. As it is desirable that the resources of the Central Prison should be utilised as far as possible to meet the requirements of the State Departments, Heads of Departments have recently been requested to place with the Superintendent all orders for articles which they require and which are manufactured in the Central Prison. The net profit from the Jail industries during the year was nearly Rs. 9,000, showing a considerable increase over that of the previous year, Rs. 6,082.

9. Registration.—The number of Registration offices remained the same as in last year viz., 51. The total number of instruments presented for